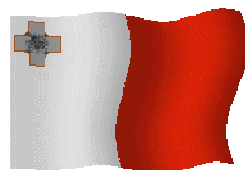


MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan
Radio Amateurs

Number 42

September 2009



Tpejjipx
No Smoking

Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for September 2009, which is issue 42 of this series.

As I told you in the previous magazine, on 19 July **Dominic, 9H1M**, made an attempt to communicate by means of television from **Malta** to **Corfu**, but propagation was not so good. Another attempt was to be made on the following week, but again the propagation was not good.

Now we want to congratulate **Dominic, 9H1M** and his friends who succeeded to establish a new world record by making contact by means of television between **Malta** and **Korfu** at a distance of **620 kilometru**.

This contact was made on a frequency of **1280 MHz** where they succeeded in transmitting and receive the television signals transmitted from **Corfu**. Propagation mode was **Tropo**.

We remind you that previously they had made contact with **Sardinia** by means of television. Details are found in **Magazine** number **31**.

We cannot also not congratulate **Mansueto, 9H1GB**, who also on the same day from **Xghajra** of **Haz-Żabbar** succeeded to also make another contact by means of television with **Corfu** at a distance of **613 kilometres**.

Mansueto also made a video on **youtube** from where one can see how **Mansueto** was receiving **OE3MZC's** signals from **Corfu**. Propagation method was **Tropo**.

When the picture fades it is not due to propagation, but due to merchant ships that were passing in front of the direction of the antenna from **Malta** to **Corfu** and an antenna problem.

Photos and further details are found further on in this magazine. We congratulate them all and congratulations for persisting until you have succeeded.

These are good activities that show that in Malta we have those who are not only interested in our hobby, but are also on the forefront to break previous records.

For September we are going to have a pasta night. Details further down.


As always, I hope that you find the information in the magazine useful to you and if you have some article please leave it in my **QSL** box or you can send it to me on my e-mail **9h1av at searchmalta dot com**.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Problems for the mind

Today you have a little mind twisting to try to solve a problem. Today we shall give you the problem and next month the solution and also some further mind twisting.

A hotel with eight floors

Eight floor	Lamp	
	8	
	7	
	6	
	5	
	4	
	3	
	2	
 	Three switches	

Today we meet someone who works in a hotel and he had a problem. He was downstairs where there were three electricity switches one of which was to light a 100 Watt bulb on the eighth floor

The problem was that he wanted to know which switch lighted the bulb, but he didn't have any test equipment to see which one lighted it such as a screwdriver, meter, etc in fact we can say that he had absolutely nothing

However, he didn't want to switch the switches one by one and every time go up the stairs because there was no lift. He only wanted to go up once. What did he do to solve the problem?

Answer in the next magazine and thanks to **Dominic 9H1M**.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

500 kHz

The United States of America was the first country that had given its radio amateurs an allocation on this frequency. Afterwards there were other countries that are always increasing that are authorizing their radio amateurs to use this frequency.

Now, as from 28 July, American radio amateurs were given a wider frequency range on this frequency to be able to work and experiment better. The page from where one can see all the details about this frequency and experiments that are being made on it is

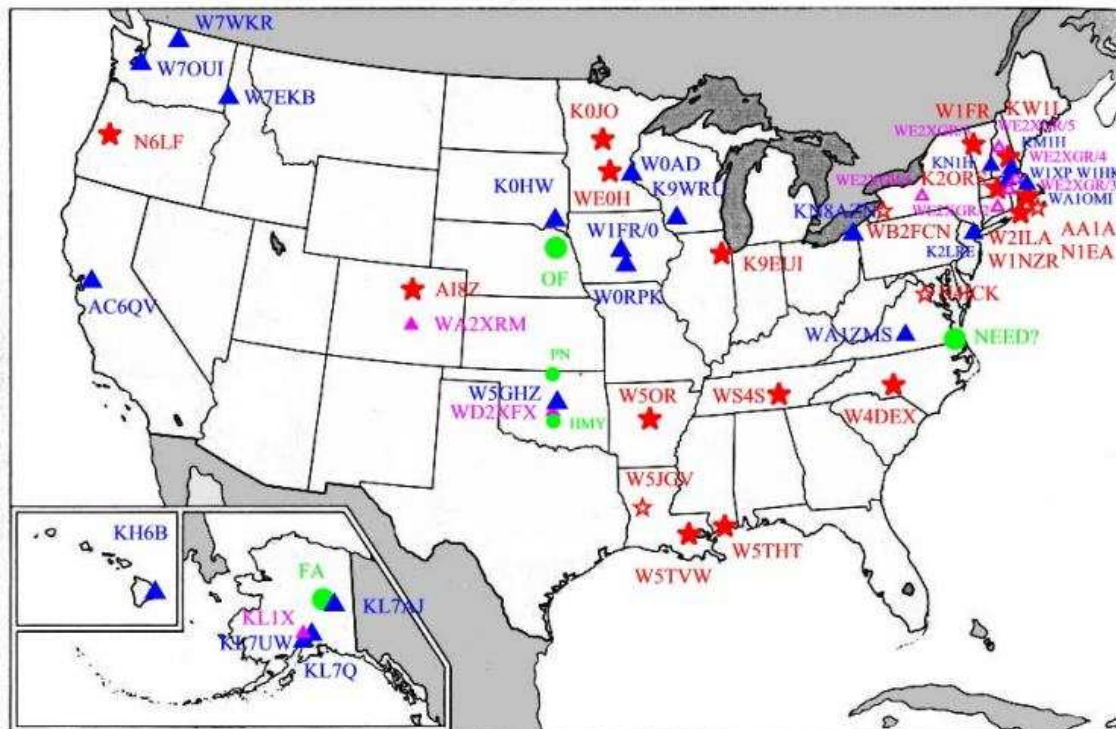
<http://www.500kc.com/>

Other internet webpages which give details are
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/09/15/104/> as well as
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/31/10997/?nc=1>

While previously American radio amateurs were authorized to use from **505 – 510 kHz**, now they can use from **495 – 510 kHz**. They are not going to use **500 kHz** exactly to leave this frequency to be used by other heritage stations.

Heritage stations are those coast stations that after having stopped using **500 kHz** there were a number of persons who were given permission to keep them in good order and in working condition as they previously were and there are days where they are used by these amateurs as

a memory of how much this **500 kHz** frequency was used and how it was a means to save ships and people.



This map shows where these American radio amateur stations that are working on this frequency are located and is taken from their internet webpage <http://www.500kc.com/>

As I have written many time there are other countries that gave an allocation to their radio amateurs on this frequency and it is a pity that in **Malta** we always remain behind because the authorities do not take a decision to give an allocation to **Maltese** and **Gozitan** radio amateurs before a decision is taken by the **International Telecommunications Union**, the **ITU**.

Other countries do not do so and that is why other countries radio amateurs are at the forefront in experiments and developments in the world of radio and technology.

Maltese and **Gozitan** radio amateurs are also able to experiment and make new developments if they are given the chance by the authorities as witnessed by the contact that has just been made by television details of which are further down where the distance that was acquired broke a record of the distance previously covered by other radio amateurs.

Can it be said that perhaps some time the **Maltese** authorities will learn and allow **Maltese** and **Gozitan** radio amateurs to be on the forefront in their experiments with the radio amateurs from the rest of the world?

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Condolences

Personally and on behalf of **MARL** we give our condolences to **Joseph, 9H1JP**, his siblings and their families and unite with them in their grief for the death of their father Emanuel on Thursday 30 July. This was the second loss in a short time for the Bugeja family because seven months previously their mother had also died.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

9H1M Dominic

I am still waiting for the photos and exact details from **Dominic's** group that established a new world record by making contact by means of television between **Malta** and **Corfu** at a distance of **620 kilometru**.

Photos and details of Mansueto 9H1GB

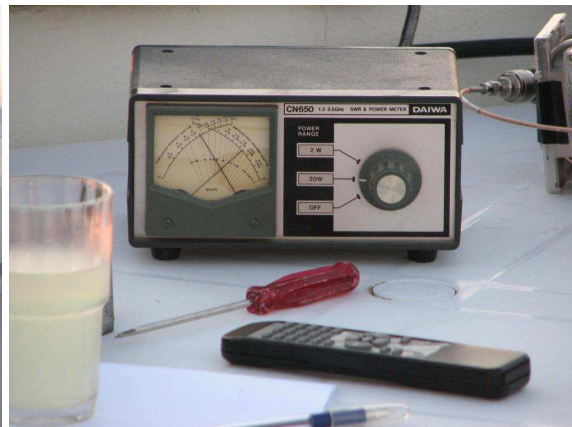
These are the details and photos that show how **Mansueto** managed to communicate by television with **Mike SV8/OE3MZC** who was in **Corfu** on holidays. These communications were made on the **24 centimetres band**.

Call Sign	9H1GB	SV8/OE3MZC
Date	02.08.2009	
Time	19.15UTC	
Frequency	1275MHz	1275MHz
Place	Xghajra Haż-Żabbar Malta JM75GV	JM99TR
Distance	617Km	

Equipment	
Tx	4 Channels home made
Power	11.5 Watts
Rx	Strong satellite receiver
Antenna	10 element home made
Preamplifier	12dB mmic home made

Mansueto also made a video on **youtube** hat shows how he received the **SV8/OE3MZC** pictures. The **youtube** internet link for the video that shows the contact is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5ODXLTCsGo>

We congratulate all those who make something new in Malta or made something more than anyone else.



MARL members invited

MARL members were invited by the H'Attard Parish Priest to attend a mass that was held on Thursday 6 August at the H'Attard Parish Church for all those who work in the media or transmit to listeners. Afterwards they were invited to a reception in the Parish Hall.

The Committee members **9H1ES**, **9H1PI**, **9H1JT** u **9H1AV** and **XYL** attended for this mass, as well as **9H1AQ** and **9H1FX**. Hereunder you have some photos of this occasion.

It would have been a better occasion if more members had attended, but since we were only informed two days before we could only make a notice on the yahoo group.

This occasion is held every year and therefore it will be good if one puts it down in his diary so that s/he will remember next year and participate.

Although all the media were invited there was a lack of attendance and one would have expected that when we have so many newspapers, publications, national and local radio stations as well as television stations attendance would have been much better than it was.

If the media itself does not participate in such occasions how do they expect the people to take notice of it?



9H1FX

9H1ES 9H1PI 9H1JT 9H1AQ



9H1PI 9HIES



9H1AQ



H'Attard Parish Church



9H1ES 9H1PI 9H1FX 9H1AQ 9H1JT



9H1ES 9H1PI 9H1AV 9H1AQ 9H1JT



9H1FX 9H1PI



9H1JT 9H1ES 9H1AQ

Photos 9H1AV
Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Interesting Photos

Today I thought of giving you a couple of interesting photos that I just took of something which is part of the history of Malta and Haż-Żabbar. The following two photos show a cannon ball stuck on the wall of a house in Haż-Żabbar, which cannon ball was shot by French soldiers when they were besieged by the Maltese people from 2 September 1798.

Therefore this cannon ball has been stuck to this wall for the last two hundred and ten years. This means that this house is older than two hundred years and that there were no buildings in front of it, at least with two storeys. This cannon ball was shot from the bastions on the Bormla side where we once had the **MARL** centre and is near St Edwards College, that is, Cottoner Gate

Those who do not remember **MARL** used to meet in the building of Cottoner Gate from where there is an excellent view because it is situated on high ground, which building is now held by **Wirt Malta** who are repairing and restoring it.

Whoever wants to see the canon ball shown in the photos can go to Haż-Żabbar and ask where is Bajada street. The cannon ball is found about 25 metres where Bajada street starts on the side of the **Banda Madonna tal-Grazzja San Mikiel Band Club** in front of which there is a big wartime shelter which is opened on certain occasions such as Good Friday.



The cannon ball appears in the middle of the photos

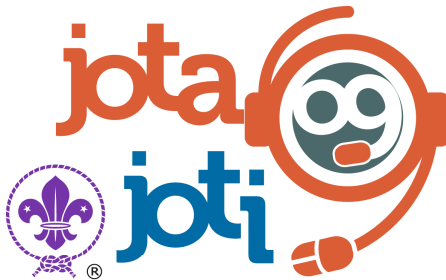
Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR



In magazine number 39 there was this photo on the left where it was stated that this was **G3TZM/9H3BX William and XYL**. There was a mistake because it was someone else and not **G3TZM**. In fact **G3TZM/9H3BX** appears in the photo on the right in the middle.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Jamboree on the Air



52nd On the Air
Sur les Ondes
JAMBOREE On the
13th Sur Internet

17-18 October / Octobre, 2009

Between Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October 2009 the Scouts Jamboree is going to be held again. This is going to be the 52 Jamboree on the Air and the 13 Jamboree on the internet.

MARL intends to take part again as it usually does and therefore operators are required to operate our station.

Therefore please don't leave it too late and quickly inform **Ivan**, **9H1PI** if you intend to take part with **MARL** in this activity.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Astronomy

One of the activities that radio amateurs do is use meteorites to reflect radio signals from the ionized trail that they leave behind them when they burn up in the world atmosphere.

One can unite this hobby with the other hobby of astronomy. For this purpose there is the **Astronomical Society of Malta**, that one can find their internet webpage on www.maltastro.org

There is also a group which seeks to inform everyone on how artificial lighting hinders those who want to observe the sky. This is the **Light Pollution Awareness Group** that one can find their internet webpage at www.maltastro.org/lpag

The co-ordinator of this **LPAG** group is Architech Alexei Pace [lpag at maltaastro.org](mailto:lpag@maltaastro.org)

However, one can observe the sky from the comfort of his home if he installs a programme called Stellarium software. This programme has programmed in it millions of stars and other objects and what you would be seeing is what is in the programme, but you see everything on the computer.

If one wants to see the natural sky one can go outside and observe everything, but with the road lighting one cannot see too many stars. If one goes out to sea he will be amazed at the thousands of stars that one can see with the naked eyes without the help of binoculars or a telescope.

One can download this programme from the main webpage at <http://www.stellarium.org/> or if you want to go directly according to the operating system on your computer.

Linux link <http://downloads.sourceforge.net/stellarium/stellarium-0.10.2.tar.gz>

Mac link <http://downloads.sourceforge.net/stellarium/stellarium-0.10.2.dmg>

Windows link <http://downloads.sourceforge.net/stellarium/stellarium-0.10.2.exe>

The operating manual can be downloaded from
http://garr.dl.sourceforge.net/project/stellarium/Stellarium-user-guide/0.10.2-1/stellarium_user_guide-0.10.2-1.pdf

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Scandinavian Activity

The Norwegian radio amateurs' organization, the **Norwegian Radio Relay League NRRL** is inviting radio amateurs to take part in this activity that it organizes every year, which this year is going to be the 51st time that it is being organized.

This activity is known as the Scandinavian Activity Contest 2009 and this year is going to be held thus.

CW – 19th-20th September 12.00-12.00 UTC

SSB – 26th-27th September 12.00-12.00 UTC

Further information from <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/sacnsc.htm>

An internet webpage for this activity <http://www.qrq.se/sac/>

To inform them that you are going to take part <http://qrq.se/sac/english/announce-your-sac-operations/>

Thanks to **Ivan**, **9H1PI** and to **Liv LA4YW**

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR

Activities

Pasta Night

On Saturday 26 September there is going to be a Pasta Night at the MARL Centre at 8 p.m.

There are going to be different pasta dishes with different sauces, both for vegetarians and for those who eat meat, both normal sauces and hot sauces, with meat or with fish.

Price is 12€ including wine.

Book early to avoid disappointment.



Yahoo Group

Be attentive and become members in the yahoo group to be fully informed with the latest activities that we intend to hold. Do not forget that we are going to have activities for the next three months which may not be able to appear on this magazine because it may have already been issued and therefore the notice will be sent on the yahoo group. Therefore make sure that if you are not already in the group to become members so that you will not lose any activity that we will be organizing. Send an e-mail to **Ivan, 9H1PI** [ivan.privitera at gmail.com](mailto:ivan.privitera@gmail.com) to become members in the group.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR